# Plant nutrition courier

## The best bits of plant nutrition research

2021-05

## Scientists advocate more ammonium in plant nutrition

Root-secreted compounds combat nitrification in rhizosphere 4

Knotweed rhizome releases potent denitrification inhibitors 8

Ribwort plantain reduces nitrogen losses from grass and cows 10

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A higher share of ammonium in the nitrogen nutrition will mitigate nitrogen pollution, boost crop yields and meet the rising food demand. With these arguments, two scientists advocate a more ammonium-based fertilisation regime. Other scientists think that ammonium-based plant nutrition is not as simple as it seems.



#### Root-secreted compounds combat nitrification in rhizosphere 4 Wild rye roots release potent nitrification inhibitors. Plant breeders have transferred the chromosome segment carrying the responsible genes to wheat varieties. Scientists have high expectations of the suppression of nitrifiers in the rhizosphere by root-released nitrification inhibitors.



## Knotweed rhizome releases potent denitrification inhibitors

Asian knotweed rhizomes release compounds that inhibit the transformation of nitrate into gaseous nitrogen. The compounds have been tested with field-grown vegetables. An affordable source of these substances has not yet been found.

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#### Cover photograph:

Ribwort plantain without grass, in the first year after sowing. Commercial cultivars have large, fairly upright leaves. Ribwort plantain flowers almost the entire growing season. Photograph: Jeroen Pijlman, Louis Bolk Institute, The Netherlands.

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### Colophon

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